



*Allen Brooks*

HAIRY WOODPECKER  
National Audubon Society

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## No. 20 Hairy Woodpecker

This active and hardy woodpecker is usually found in heavy woods during the nesting season. In the winter, however, it frequently comes about our lawns and orchards where, in company with its smaller relative, the downy, it spends its time gleaning in the crevices of the bark for the larvae and insects which constitute the greater portion of its food. It is much shyer than the downy, and is more difficult of approach, but it may often be enticed to the feeding-shelf or to the supply of suet which has been provided for the winter birds. Often, like the downy, it becomes so intent upon its search for food that it may be surprised and approached very closely.

The note of the hairy is much louder and sharper than that of the downy, and this ought to enable anyone to distinguish the two birds. The nest is generally excavated in a dead tree, and from four to six white eggs are laid.

Scientific name: *Dryobates villosus*.

Length:  $9\frac{1}{2}$  inches.

**Range:** Distributed in its varying forms throughout most of the wooded areas of the United States and Canada.

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